

By Senator Dudley

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A bill to be entitled
An act protecting the right of free expression
of candidates for public office; granting all
candidates for public office the right to
express their positions on public issues;
repealing provisions of the Code of Judicial
Conduct which conflict with this right;
providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the First Amendment of the United States
Constitution prohibits governments from abridging the freedom
of speech, and

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Article I of the State
Constitution grants to every person the right to speak, write,
and publish his or her sentiments on all subjects and
prohibits any law that restrains or abridges the liberty of
speech, and

WHEREAS, no form of expression is more sacred to these
protections than political speech, and no political speech is
more worthy of these protections than that of candidates for
public office, and

WHEREAS, freedom of political expression is the
linchpin of our liberty, and, for our liberty to remain
secure, governments must not restrain the liberty of
candidates for public office to exercise the right of
expression granted to all, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. All candidates for public office, including
candidates for judicial office, have the right to publicly

